

Our Gospel Meeting

September 24 - 28

Speaker: Charles C. Pugh III

Sunday:

Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m.

Monday through Thursday: 7:00 p.m.



What Makes the Church Strong?

Charles Pugh, III

Much has been said about what makes a strong church. In my judgment, too much of what has been said on church growth and on strengthening the church simply does not get to the heart of what it's all about. We want to consider some things in which the strength of the church is not found.

1. **The Strength of the Church Is Not in Physical Facilities.** Strong churches existed before fine, commodious church buildings. In fact, the church has never been stronger than when it was hounded from pillar to post. We are grateful for the good meeting houses with which we have been blessed. However, we must always remember the warning of these Words of old: "For Israel hath forgotten his Maker, and buildeth temples" (Hos. 8:14).

2. **The Strength of the Church Is Not in Academic Degrees.** The education level in the church is perhaps at an all time high. However, this does not mean the church is the strongest it has ever been. The strength of the church does not rest in intellectual attainment because, "ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called" (1 Cor. 1:26).

3. **The Strength of the Church Is Not in Large Numbers.** Too many measure strength by numbers. The strength of God's people has never been (and never will be) in numbers, because God's people always will be outnumbered (cf. Mat. 7:14).

4. **The Strength of the Church Is Not in Material Riches.** We know of some churches with big budgets which we by no means would consider strong. Laodicea was a rich church materially but poor and weak spiritually (Rev. 3: 17). Smyrna, on the other hand, was poor materially, yet, rich and strong spiritually (Rev. 2:9).

5. **The Strength of the Church Is Not in its Community Image.** Some feel that the more members the church has among the socially elite the stronger it is. Not so! We should never desire that the church be resented by the community. However, the church cannot be truly strong and have everyone in town think it (the church) is great (cf. Luke 6:26; 2 Tim. 3:12). The church has never been stronger than it was when it was called by its enemies a "sect...every where it is spoken against" (Acts 28:22).

- Beacon, Bellview Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL -

"Trust ye in the Lord forever: for in the Lord JEHOVAH is everlasting strength." - Isa. 26:4

News & Notes

BELATED WEDDING ANNIVERSARY WISHES: To **Jim & Sharon Martin** who celebrated their 53rd anniversary on August 28th. Congratulations and best wishes to them.

SECRET SISTER REVEAL: TODAY following the morning worship.

GOSPEL MEETING: Today through Wednesday, St. Clair Ave. Church of Christ. Studies in Philippians. **Speaker:** Steve Stevens. Details on the bulletin board. **The Chester congregation will go as a group to support this meeting, TOMORROW evening, 7:00 p.m.**

TRI-STATE GRIEF FELLOWSHIP: Next Saturday, Sept. 16th, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the St. Clair Ave. Church of Christ. See insert in this bulletin.

LADIES DAY: Saturday, Sept. 23rd, 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., McGuffey Road Church of Christ, Youngstown, OH. Additional details on the bulletin board.

LADIES DAY: Saturday, Sept. 30th, Southern Hills. Registration/Refreshments: 9:00-10:00 a.m. Program: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., "Where Is Your Next Paradise?" Speakers: Latisha Brown, Karen McHan, Christi Robison. Lunch provided. Additional details on the bulletin board.

WEDDING: The Families of **MaClay Moore and Noah Toomey** invite you to their wedding **Saturday, September 30th, 2:00 p.m.** at the Virginia Church of Christ. Cookies and cake from 3:00-4:00 p.m. at the Chester City Building.

OPEN HOUSE: Saturday, September 30th, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the Fellowship Building to celebrate **Donna Stevens' 90th Birthday.**

LADIES DAY: Saturday, Oct. 7th., Newcomerstown, OH. Registration: 9:30-10:00 a.m. Program: 10:00 a.m., "Diamonds In The Rough", Speaker: Latisha Brown.

GOSPEL MEETING: Oct. 8-12, Newcomerstown, OH with Rico Brown.

PANTRY: Canned fruit.

SICK & SHUT-IN: UPMC, Shadyside: Linda Parkes. **Weirton Medical (Skilled):** Melissa Rosohac. **At Home:** Richmond Family, Peggy Linger, Nancy Cox, Blondenia Orr, Barbara DeLong, David Strum, Cheryl Renfro Walker, Lori Rowand (John Sprout's niece). **Fox - Chester:** Mary Johnson (Lois Hissom's sister). **In Ohio:** Herman McHan, 7401 Elmwood Drive, Lisbon, OH 44432.

